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ALLEGED ASSOCIATION OF FLUORIDE TO SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

The Sickle Cell Disease Branch, National Heart and Lung Institute, NIH, recently issued a statement pointing out that there is no known scientific information to support a statement, currently being circulated by opponents of fluoridation, which alleges that sickle cell anemia is very likely initiated and aggravated by fluoride intake by humans.

The statement of the Sickle Cell Disease Branch follows:

Sickle cell anemia is a hereditary and familial form of chronic hemolytic anemia characterized clinically by symptoms of anemia, jaundice, recurrent attacks of pain (crises), and increased susceptibility to certain infections, decreased physical capabilities, and frequently a shortened lifespan. The abnormality present in sickle cell anemia results from the replacement of the amino acid, glutamyl, in the sixth position of the beta chain by the amino acid, valyl. This is a genetic abnormality which is passed from parents to offspring. There is no known evidence that fluoridation plays any role in initiating this abnormality nor causing exacerbation of the problem.

Further, investigation of the effect of fluorides on the hematopoietic system of certain animals indicates no significant bone marrow changes in the presence of moderately toxic doses over a long period of time. (Hoogstratten and others: "Effect of Fluorides on Hematopoietic System, Liver, and Thyroid Gland in Cattle," Journal of American Medical Association, V. 192, No. 1, pg. 112-118, 1965.)

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